

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-13 SR-02 ORM-03 DPW-01 OMB-01

AID-20 EUR-25 DRC-01 /169 W
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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1093

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 7892

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PK, BG, IN

SUBJECT: MFA DIRECTOR GENERAL COMMENTS ON POW AND REFUGEE
MOVEMENTS

REF: ISLAMABAD 7617

1. ON A SOCIAL OCCASION, CHARGE SANDERHOFF QUESTIONED
ABDUL SATTAR, MFA DIRGEN FOR SOUTH ASIA, ON MOVEMENT OF
POWS AND REFUGEES UNDER TERMS OF AUGUST 28 INDO-PAK
ACCORD.

2. CHARGE CALLED ATTENTION TO CRITICISM OF ACCORD BY
OPPOSITION LEADERS AND OTHERS. SATTAR SAID TWO PRINCIPAL
CRITICISMS OF ACCORD HAVE BEEN ADVANCED: (A) ACCORD
CONDEMNS THE 195 POW'S TO BE HELD BY INDIA TO AN UNCERTAIN
AND INDEFINITE FATE; (B) GOP COULD HAVE OBTAINED SAME
AGREEMENT BY PROMPTLY ACCEPTING APRIL 17 INDIA/BANGLADESH
DECLARATION.

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3. SATTAR CONCEDED THAT FIRST OF THESE CRITICISMS CONTAIN IN HIS VIEW A CERTAIN ELEMENT OF VALIDITY. HE SAID IT IS INDEED TRUE THAT FATE OF 195 POW'S IS AN UNCLEAR AND UNHAPPY ONE. ON OTHER HAND, GOP KNOWS IN ITS OWN MIND THAT IT WILL NEVER AGREE TO WAR CRIMES TRIALS; WHATEVER THEIR FATE, THE 195 POW'S WILL NOT BE TRIED AS WAR CRIMINALS.

4. CONCERNING SECOND CRITICISM, SATTAR TERMED THIS "IN VALID". HE SAID GOP ACCEPTANCE OF ORIGINAL DECLARATION WOULD HAVE MEANT AGREEMENT TO WAR CRIMES TRIALS, WHICH WAS AND IS UNSATISFACTORY FROM GOP POINT OF VIEW.

5. CHARGE INQUIRED ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR TIMETABLE IN IMPLEMENTING POW AND REFUGEE MOVEMENTS UNDER ACCORD. SATTAR SAID HE EXPECTS MOVEMENTS TO GET UNDERWAY QUICKLY, "WITHIN A WEEK". HE SAID GOP IS DETERMINED TO ESTABLISH ITS BONA FIDES WITH REGARD TO REFUGEE MOVEMENTS. AS ONE MEANS OF ACHIEVING THIS HE SAID GOP WILL "SEND A SIGNAL TO GOI" BY DELIBERATELY INCLUDING IN FIRST MOVEMENT OF BENGALLEES TO BANGLADESH A NUMBER OF SENIOR BENGALLEE OFFICIALS. THIS WOULD, INTER ALIA, INDICATE LACK OF ANY INTENTION ON PAK SIDE TO CONTINUE WITH CONCEPT OF HOLDING SENIOR BENGALLEES FOR POSSIBLE TRIALS IN FUTURE. CHARGE INQUIRED "SENIOR BENGALLEES LIKE TABARAK HOSSAIN?" (THIS REFERRED TO ONE OF THE EX-DIRECTORS GENERAL OF MFA.) SATTAR REPLIED AFFIRMATIVELY. SANDERHOFF

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